(b) if so, the area of land in the said State permitted for mining of chalk and the number of people, to whom mining licenses have been issued in this regard;

(c) whether the mining sites have been inspected from time to time in view of the environmental sensitivity of the State;

(d) if so, whether all the mining work is being carried out as per stipulated conditions and norms; and

(e) if not, whether mining work would be regulated after inspection of the said mining sites by the experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (e) Mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. However, only for minerals specified under the First Schedule to the aforesaid Act, prior approval of the Central Government is required before grant of mineral concessions by the State Government and chalk is not specified under the First Schedule. No priomapproval of the Central Government is required for grant of mining lease by the State Government. The Government of Uttaranchal has reported that there are no records of chalk mining in Uttaranchal.

CIL dues from SEBs/PSUs

788. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) is to recover more than Rs. 6000/- crore from various SEBs/PSUs;

(b) if so, since when; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Coal sale outstanding dues of subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 30.6.2004 (Provisional) is Rs. 4085.76 crores from State Electricity Board and Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) The said outstanding coal sale dues have accumulated over a period of more than 10 years.

(c) Details of measures taken by Government are given below:

(1) the Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Power have jointly put in place umpires to settle the disputes between the State Electricity Boards (SEBs)/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and the coal companies of CIL.

(2) Government of India formulated a securitization scheme to settle the outstanding coal sale dues of SEBs upto the period 30.09.2001.

(3) A system of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) has been initiated to take care of issues like Sampling, Weighment and Quality of coal.

Rates of royalty on coal

†789. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Government of India for reconsideration of rates on coal royalty on the basis of *ad valorem;*

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the increase in market price of coal during the last five years; and

(d) whether rates of royalty on coal have been increased by 10 to 15 per cent only over the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has written to the Central Government that in the financial interest of the State, royalty rates on coal may be fixed on *ad valorem* basis.

(c) The average percentage increase in pithead price for all grades of coal over the last five years has been 25.07%.

(d) The average percentage increase in royalty on coal taking into account the upward revision effected on 11.10.1994 and 16.8.2002, has been 24.68%.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.